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possible to announce any final result of the action of your committee, but it is quite possible that improved legislation may be attained by the time of the meeting of the Association to which this report is made.

In conclusion we find that what is needed to effect the result desired, is a continuation of the effort, already commenced, of vigorous protest against the laws on the subject as at present existing ; laws which obstruct knowledge at its fountain-head ; which impose onerous burdens on a class which works gratuitously for the public good, and which place our country in a false position among the enlightened nations of the earth.

EDW. D. COPE, Philadelphia, *Chairman*.

J. R. EASTMAN, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.

S. A. FORBES, Champaign, Ill.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—Dr. Paul Langerhans, formerly professor in Freiburg i. B., died in Funchal, Madeira, July 20th, 1888, aged forty-one years.

—A heavy earthquake shock was felt in the city of Mexico, September 6th, 1888. In its violence it exceeded any hitherto recorded there.

—Prof. Graf zu Solms-Laubach, of Tübingen, succeeds to Prof. de Bary's place as editor of the *Botanische Zeitung*, while Dr. Kohl, of Marburg, has accepted the position of editor of the *Botanische Centralblatt*.

—The Indiana Academy of Science will hold its fourth annual meeting at Indianapolis, December 25th to 27th. The address of the retiring President, Dr. J. P. D. John, will be given on the evening of the 25th. As last year the programme was crowded, it has been decided to organize four sections this year : A, Zoology ; B, Botany ; C, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics ; D, Geology and Geography.

—The British Association at its Bath meeting made the following grants for Geology, Biology, Geography and Anthropology : Geological Record, £80 ; Erratic Blocks, £10 ; Volcanic Phenomena of Japan, £25 ; Volcanic Phenomena of Vesuvius, £20 ; Fossil Phyllopoda of the Palæozoic Rocks, £20 ; Eocene Beds of the Isle of Wight, £15 ; Fossil Secondary and Tertiary Plants of the United Kingdom, £15 ; Zoology and Botany of the West

Indies, £100; Marine Biological Association, £200; Flora of China, £25; Physiology of the Lymphatic System, £25; Deep-sea Tow-net, £10; Natural History of the Friendly Islands, £100; Geography and Geology of the Atlas Range £100; Effect of Occupation on Physical Development, £20; Northwestern Tribes of Canada, £150; New Edition of Anthropological Notes and Queries, £50; Calculating the Anthropological Measurements taken at Bath, £5; Exploration of Roman Baths at Bath, £100; Characteristics of Nomad Tribes of Asia Minor, £30. Apparently no grant was made this year for the Zoological Record, a work which may well be allowed to lapse, since its place is so much better filled by the Naples "Jahresbericht."

—REWARDS FOR MERITORIOUS DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS.

—The Committee on Science and the Arts of the Franklin Institute, of the State of Pennsylvania, is empowered to award, or to recommend the award of, certain medals for meritorious discoveries and inventions, which tend to the progress of the arts and manufactures.

These medals are:—

1.—*The Elliott Cresson Medal (gold)*, to be awarded either for some discovery in the arts and sciences, or for the invention or improvement of some useful machine, or for some new process, or combination of materials in manufactures, or for ingenuity, skill, or perfection in workmanship.

2.—*The John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal (twenty dollars and a medal of copper)* was founded in 1816, by John Scott, a merchant of Edinburgh, Scotland, who bequeathed to the City of Philadelphia a considerable sum of money, the interest of which should be devoted to rewarding ingenious men and women who make useful inventions. The premium is not to exceed twenty dollars, and the medal is to be of copper, and inscribed "*To the most deserving.*"

—The following is taken from the New York *Herald*: The Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, of Cambridge, Mass., through the liberality of Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, of Boston, and other gentlemen interested in the subject, is about to send an expedition to explore the ruins of Yucatan, the command of which has been offered to Consul Edward H. Thompson, who has accepted. As apractical archæologist and writer upon the subjects connected therewith, Mr. Thompson is already eminent. His large experience and valuable discoveries among the lost cities in the almost unknown interior of Yucatan and Central America, make his selection for the proposed work most promising for its success. His present position as Consul to Yucatan was proffered him by our government with a view to a thorough ethnological and archæological study of the ruins in that country. The expedition will occupy several months. The draughtsman, photographer and naturalist will probably leave the United States in December.